GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Andhra Pradesh Forest Department – Departmental proceedings initiated against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Wildlife Management Circle, Eluru under Rule 20 of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 - Imposing a penalty of "5% (Five Percent) cut in pension for a period of 5 (Five) Years and treating the period of suspension as Not on Duty" against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.) - Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 43 **Dated: 19-07-2021**

Read the following:

1) From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Lr.Rc.No.2691/2015/A&DC-3, dated 02.03.2020.
2) Memo.No.727/Sec.IV/A1/2020, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 02.09.2020.
3) From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Lr. Ref.No.2691/2015/A&DC-3, dated 21.03.2021.
4) Letter No.727/Sec.IV/A1/2020, EFS & T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 07.05.2021
5) From the Secretary, APPSC, Lr.No.262/DC&C/2021, dt.23.06.2021

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ORDER**:**

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has reported that disciplinary action has been initiated against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Wildlife Management Circle, Eluru under Rule 20 of APCS (CC & A) Rules, 1991 by issuing the following Article of Charges vide Ref.No.2691/2015/Vig-2, dt.06.05.2015:-

Article:

"That he had exhibited gross negligence & dereliction of duty that led to formation of illegal fish/aquaculture tanks inside Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, thereby causing damage to the habitat of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary".

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the Article of Charge on 25.05.2015 and submitted his explanation on 27.05.2015. Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Hyderabad appointed the Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Division, Eluru as Presenting Officer in Proc. No.2691/2015/Vig-2 (i&ii), dated 06.07.2015 for conducting the regular enquiry.

3. The Inquiry Officer & Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle, Rajahmundry submitted the findings along-with connected case record vide Rc.No.79/2015/M8, dated 21.05.2019, wherein he concluded that,

"After careful examination of the Article of Charges, explanation of the charged officer and record of enquiry, it is construed that the charges framed against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer, Eluru (T) Range of Eluru Division, formerly Wildlife Management Range, Eluru of WLM Division, Eluru of defunct WLM Circle, Eluru are held proved beyond any reasonable doubt".

4. The findings of the Inquiry Officer were communicated to the Charged Officer vide Ref.No.2691/2015/A&DC-3, dated 14.08.2019 of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur. The Charged Officer acknowledged final notice on 12.12.2019 and did not submit his further defence statement.

(P.T.O)

5. Disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of AP Revised pension Rules, 1980, since the Charged Officer retired from service on attaining the age of superannuation.

6. Government have examined the issue and it has been provisionally decided to impose a penalty of "5% (five percent) cut in pension for a period of five (5) years and to treat the period of suspension as not on duty" against the Charged Officer, Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked in Wildlife Management Circle, Eluru, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, in Memo. 2nd read above, a show-cause notice has been issued to the Charged Officer Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.) on the proposed punishment and the same was acknowledged by the Charged Officer on 14.10.2020.

7. In the letter 3rd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF has furnished the dated acknowledgment in token receipt of the Memo. 2nd cited. Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, FRO (Retd.) did not submit his further defence statement, though he acknowledged the show cause notice on 14.10.2020.

8. After careful examination of the entire issue, the Government have decided to confirm the provisional decision to impose a penalty of "5% (five percent) cut in pension for a period of (5) five years and to treat the period of suspension as not on duty" against the retired Charged Officer Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, FRO (Retd.), under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

9. In the letter 4th read above, the Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission has been requested to obtain and communicate the concurrence of the Commission on proposed penalty, for taking further action in the matter.

10. In the letter 5th read above, the Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, has stated that the Commission agreed with the proposal of the Government, to impose a penalty of "5% cut in pension for a period of five (5) years and to treat the period of suspension as Not on Duty" against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.)

11. After careful examination of the entire matter, the Government hereby order to impose a penalty of **"5% (five percent) cut in pension for a period of (5) five years and to treat the period of suspension as Not on Duty**" against Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), formerly worked in WLM Circle, Eluru, under Rule 9 of A.P. revised Pension Rules, 1980.

12. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

VIJAY KUMAR G.Srkr
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri P.S. Prakasa Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Wildlife Management Circle, Eluru, through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.(with original record file No.79/2015/M2 in two volumes and file No.79/2015/M8 in two volumes)
Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.

(Contd....)

The PS to M (Energy, EFS & T).
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The PS to the Secretary to Government, EFS & T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.1126284).

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER